

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, RP, US

SUBJECT: RETAIL TRADE DECREE

REF: MANILA 5811

1. PAUL O'LEARY, VICE PRESIDENT OF CONNELL BROTHERS, VISITED DEPARTMENT JULY 2 TO INQUIRE ABOUT TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON RETAIL TRADE REPORTEDLY READY FOR SIGNATURE. ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, BASED ON TELETYPE FROM MANILA, DECREE EXEMPTS ONLY MANUFACTURERS AND PROCESSORS, AND NOT REPEAT NOT DISTRIBUTORS, IMPORTERS, OR WHOLESALERS FROM PROVISIONS IN RETAIL TRADE ACT PROHIBITING SALES TO INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIES. APPLICATION OF LAW REPORTEDLY SUSPENDED BY COURT INJUNCTION WHICH EXPECTED TO BE REMOVED ON ISSUANCE OF DECREE. CONNELL BELIEVES THIS WOULD LEAD TO RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR EXTENSIVE WHOLESALE AND DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS IN PHILIPPINES GROSSING DOLS 30 MILLION A YEAR.

2. CONNELL INFORMATION APPARENTLY BASED ON DRAFT DECREE AS CITED REFTEL, WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD WOULD COPE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPAL CONCERNS CITED BY AMERICAN CHAMBER. QUESTION

APPEARS TO BE WHETHER ACT WILL BE ENFORCED TO RESTRICT
INTERMEDIARY OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS SALES TO END USERS WHICH
HAD BEEN FOCUS OF MOST EARLIER DISCUSSIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY VIEW AS TO WHETHER
GOP INTENDS TO APPLY RETAIL TRADE ACT TO RESTRICT INTER-
MEDIARY SALES OF SORT CONNELL BROTHERS CONDUCTS OR IF
DECREE WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE THAT EFFECT. IF SO, WHAT
ACTIONS COULD USG OR COMPANY TAKE TO REDUCE EFFECTS? IF
EMBASSY BELIEVES CONNELL'S CONCERNS NOT JUSTIFIED, PLEASE
ADVISE WHAT BASIS CAN BE OFFERED CONNELL FOR SUCH CON-
CLUSIONS.

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